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BILLS TO AMEND
HOMESTEADING LAWS
AND OTHER ACTS

Ottawa, March 30.—Three bills affecting western Canada participants were placed on the order paper today by Hon. Dr. Roche. They are bills to amend the Dominion Lands Act, the Irrigation Act and the Forest Reserves Act.

The amendments to the Dominion Lands Act are of far-reaching importance to the western homesteader. One clause reduces the time for securing patents on pre-emption from six to three years and abolishes the interest charges of five per cent.

However, a homesteader who has the option of paying for his pre-emption in six years and in that time is charged interest during the six years, it may be explained that every homesteader has the right to pre-empt an additional 160 acres at a charge of three dollars an acre. The present law gives him six years in which to pay this charge and he pays interest at five per cent.

Another important amendment allows homesteaders on land which is not of the highest grade to qualify for their patents by keeping stock instead of breaking land to a certain amount as at present. The first year there must be five head of cattle, in the second year 10 and the third 16. On pre-emption land the homesteader can always secure a patent by keeping stock in lieu of cultivation, except that by the third year he must have 24 head of stock instead of 16. The principal object of this amendment is to encourage mixed farming and cattle raising.

There are a number of other amendments of which the most important is that of water rights for sale, lands and water power, the idea of this being to preserve the water powers for the crown.

The changes in the Irrigation Act are largely technical and as such do not affect the amount of money to be spent on the disposal of water for municipal and other purposes.

Changes to the Forest Reserve Act provide for the addition of certain areas to the present forest reserve in Alberta and Saskatchewan. A year ago these areas were under the Forest Act and they are now permanently a part of the forest reserve, most of the newly added territory being in Saskatchewan.

PONOKA HIGH SCHOOL

Easter Examinations

GRADE XI.

Class 1—Vernon, 81 per cent.; Lethbridge, 80 per cent.; Mary Hall, 79 per cent.; Lethbridge, 78 per cent.

Class 2—Harry Laycock, 79 per cent.; Percy Lloyd, 78 per cent.; Mystic Eakin, 73 per cent.; Clara Rosemary, 72 per cent.; Ruth Headley, 70 per cent.

Class 3—A. Brown, 70 per cent.

Class 4—Bruce Stephen, 68 per cent.

Class 5—Stephen, 67 per cent.

Class 6—Bruce Stephen, 65 per cent.

Class 7—Bruce Stephen, 63 per cent.

Class 8—Stephen, 61 per cent.

Class 9—Stephen, 59 per cent.

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